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## PUBLIC SERVICES INTERNATIONAL | April 2010

Global recognition for quality public service workers this May Day

Public Services International, as a member of the Council of Global Unions, is proud to share with affiliates the common May Day statement issued by the Council this year. This message is an important affirmation of the need to defend the role of quality public services in the rebuilding of economies and communities that have been rent by the global economic crisis, or been shattered by natural disasters.

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PSI Solidarity Visit to Haiti

Public Services International is organising a Solidarity Visit to Haiti from 30 April to 6 May. International Workers' Day on 1 May will be an opportunity to bring members together in trade union solidarity. Activities include the members' reunion, visits to affected areas, distribution of aid packages and the set up of a more secure and safe union office.

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PSI General Secretary meets with Chilean Labour Minister

PSI general secretary Peter Waldorff and the Chilean minister of labour and social welfare, Camila Merino, met in Santiago on 15 April. Waldorff called on the new right wing government to guarantee freedom of association and collective bargaining with the right to strike within the public administration. He also insisted on the need to include trade unions in the Chilean reconstruction programme.

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Plan for IAMRECON: "Trade union rights at the heart of Quality Public Services"

The PSI Inter-American Regional Executive Committee Meeting (IAMREC) took place in Santiago, Chile on 15-16 April. According to Jocelio Drummond, PSI Regional Secretary for the Inter-American region, the venue was chosen "to show solidarity towards Chile and to accompany our members through this difficult time".

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PSI pledges support and solidarity with South African Municipal Workers' Union (SAMWU)

Victory for South African Municipal Workers' Union members! Following seven years of fruitless negotiations and a legal national protected strike that began on 12 April 2010, an agreement on wage curves has finally been reached. Thanks to workers' perseverance, the long wait to introduce proper salaries for municipal workers is now over.

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PSI delegation supports demand of Swaziland affiliates for trade union and democratic rights

A delegation from the global union federation Public Services International went to Swaziland at the end of April to lend support to affiliates who are trying to convince the government to back down on plans to adopt a controversial Public Service Bill. In its current form, the bill effectively prohibits public officers from openly belonging to or being associated with any political organisation, which could also include a trade union.

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Canada-EU trade agreement

As the third round of Canada-European Union free trade negotiations began the week of April 19, leaked draft details of the proposed Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) were jointly released by Public Services International and its European arm, the European Federation of Public Service Unions, together with union affiliates and civil service organisations in the Canadian Trade Justice Network.

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Campaigns to defend quality public services - send your links to PSI

In tough economic times, social programs provide essential supports for both economies and societies. However, the financial crisis is providing the excuse to cut public funding, at a time when citizens need public education, unemployment, and health benefits the most. Public Services International and our affiliates are standing up to the attacks on public services, around the world.

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Employment programmes as a response to the crisis

The G20 labour ministers have issued recommendations to the G20 leaders that recognise the need to put jobs and social protection at the centre of economic recovery. However, trade unions are concerned that with pressures rising to cut back on recovery programmes and reduce public deficits, premature "exit strategies" could tip the global economy back into a recession, according to an ITUC/TUAC evaluation of the meeting's outcomes.

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